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NO TO APARTHEID AGENDA: Stop Trump's assault on D.C. & Black mayors nationwide

By Stephen Millies

Donald Trump's Aug. 11 news conference announcing his hijacking of Washington, D.C.'s police force was a racist tirade of lies and threats. The wannabe dictator claimed that the capital "has been overtaken by violent gangs and bloodthirsty criminals, roving mobs of wild youth, drugged-out maniacs and homeless people."

When Trump talks about "violent gangs" and "roving mobs of wild youth," he's talking about rounding up Black and Brown people. Every day, Washington is becoming more and more of a police

state, although it was already occupied by thousands of armed personnel from a dozen different government agencies.

Trump told police that "they are allowed to do whatever the hell they want." To hell with the Bill of Rights or any other constitutional safeguard.

That's like Nixon calling students protesting the Vietnam War "bums" just before the Ohio National Guard killed four Kent State students in 1970.

People are being stopped at checkpoints. Sean Dunn was arrested on felony charges near one for allegedly throwing

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Protesters rally near the White House.



Carlos Roberto Montoya

Ni un@mas!

Canadian flight attendants win demands



- TRUMP: WARMONGER IN CHIEF
- Proxy war: U.S. & NATO led Ukraine to disaster

The Mamdani NYC mayoral campaign 'Which side are you on?'



Political prisoner dialog

JAY BURTON

'THE PALESTINE FLAG HAS BECOME THAT OF HUMANITY ITSELF'



Defying Trump's cuts: L.A. LGBT Center activist shares resistance strategy in Havana

Walkout shuts down Baltimore restaurant over Palestine pin firing

By Jace Carter and Andrew Matatag

Over the weekend of Aug. 16, the owner of Bunny's Buckets & Bubbles, a Baltimore restaurant in the downtown neighborhood of Fells Point, fired an employee for wearing a Palestine pin.

Supposedly, a customer left a review about the employee, stating “that they felt uncomfortable and unsafe” and that it “disrupted their dining experience.” The owner doubled down on the complaint when notifying the employee of their termination, saying that the Palestine flag was “anti-gay.”

This stems from decades-old Zionist propaganda that presents “Israel” as a bastion of democracy and progressivism in West Asia, sometimes referred to as “pinkwashing.”

Saja, a Palestinian activist, learned about the wrongful termination through a work group chat where the fired worker had requested extra hours. She immediately called a protest.

“They had relayed to me the situation — that the owner was drinking on the job when he had initially fired the first person, that the dress policy stated that they were not allowed to wear any vulgar or offensive imagery, and that the person who was fired was given an ultimatum: either take off the pin or leave the establishment and not to come back,” said Saja.

On Aug. 17, a crowd consisting mostly of Bunny's workers gathered in front of the restaurant. Members of the People's Power Assembly joined to support.

In between chants like “Don't support Bunny's, the owner supports geno-

cide,” and “From Baltimore to Palestine, solidarity is not a crime,” as well as mini marches to Fells Point's main street, workers spoke out in front of the restaurant about working at Bunny's.

“Matt Akman is the owner of Bunny's, but that's all he does,” said one worker. “He doesn't cook, he doesn't serve. He comes to flex on his friends that he owns a restaurant. Sometimes he comes just to eat and drink for free — and then he leaves sh*tty tips!”

“The owner has claimed that we make more than he does,” said another worker. “Meanwhile, he's got the only in-ground pool in Fells Point.”

Two “private security” guards stood guard at the entrance to Bunny's for the duration of the protest and at one point threatened to, in their own words, “put the lead organizer in handcuffs” for “standing too close” to Akman's private property that they were shamelessly covering.

“They asked me to move across the street and when I respectfully declined, they got more hostile,” said Saja. “They then continued to call me the R word and threatened to put me in jail.” This baseless attempt quickly proved unsuccessful, and the demo carried on.

A lone heckler was drowned out by



SLL photo

Workers assembled in front of Bunny's.

the overwhelming support of passersby, as well as the loud, passionate chanting from the workers. At the end of the demo, one passerby even offered to lend her services as an employment lawyer. Another identified himself as a former member of Plumbers Local 1 in New York City. He said, “I'm with you guys, and I'm with Palestine.”

For the duration of the protest, sever-

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DHS is kidnapping and killing us... Ni un@ mas!

By Liz

Los Angeles — On Aug. 14, the DHS (Department of Homeland Security) and its Federal Law Enforcement Collaborators killed yet another human being: Carlos Roberto Montoya.

Like many immigrants living in the belly of the beast, Carlos was escaping extreme poverty in his home country and was forced to separate from his beloved family to try his luck in the U.S. Immigrants seeking a better life are forced to choose between being poor in their home country or being poor in the U.S.

Carlos was the sole provider for his daughters back in Guatemala. He was a regular at a Home Depot parking lot in Monrovia, California, just outside Los Angeles, where so many of the most vulnerable and exploited workers are forced to exchange their hard labor for the green paper that allows them to pay for just enough food and a roof over their head.

Per witness reports, day laborers ran as soon as they saw ICE was there because they knew that the risk of get-

ting detained and disappeared while Brown is high, regardless of immigration status.

In an interview with Noticias Telemundo, one of Carlos' fellow day laborers shares that he witnessed Carlos with his head down and in cuffs after being detained by ICE gestapo officials. He was later informed that Carlos had gotten onto the 210 freeway, but he doesn't understand how that happened because he recalls seeing him already detained by ICE.

Pablo Alvarado with the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON) is demanding a full investigation.

Despite witness reports and a video showing Carlos detained by ICE, DHS claims they were not aware of his death until hours later, after they were finished with their operations for the day.

It is not surprising that DHS would try to cover up their criminal and fascist behavior; it is also not surprising that they would receive assistance from the owners of corporate media, who continue to parrot the DHS line that "he was not being pursued at the time of the crash."

Carlos had a split second to make a decision between being taken to a second location or literally running for his life. He only had a split second to think



Carlos Roberto Montoya

about how his daughters would survive if he were kidnapped and disappeared, or if making a run for it would allow him to con-

tinue to struggle for survival.

While DHS and its cronies are the main murderers, the Home Depot is also complicit. The Community Self Defense Coalition in Los Angeles has called for a boycott of Home Depot because of its complicity in the raids.

The billionaire co-founder of Home Depot, Ken Langone, boasted about how excited he was about the future of the U.S. under Trump.

It is no coincidence that the Home Depots have been center stage for so many horrifying incidents involving the ICE gestapo. They have kicked out community patrollers trying to keep day laborers safe, yet they allow ICE onto their property to terrorize laborers and customers in the parking lots and even inside the stores. In Monrovia, there were a total of 13 human beings who were kidnapped that day. #

Baltimore restaurant walkout walkout

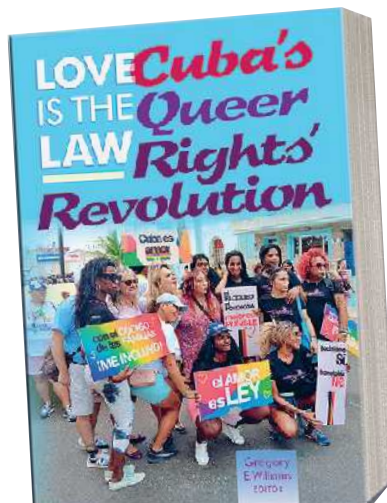
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al Bunny's workers walked off the job and joined. When the crowd learned that Bunny's would be shutting down early for the evening, they cheered on this small but well-deserved victory against the racist, Zionist owner.

The following day, local news reported that Bunny's fired six more workers for their participation in the protest.

"This issue is bigger than whether or not people are allowed to wear Palestine pins," said Saja. "Palestinians deserve a right to exist and if the existence of another human being makes you feel unsafe then you should think about how messed up that sounds. The fired workers were brave enough to speak up about the challenges they were facing. Children are starving and dying. A whole population is going through a genocide."

Saja organized a GoFundMe for the fired workers. #



LOVE IS THE LAW **CUBA's Queer Rights Revolution**



This book includes:

- ◆ Presentation by Cenesex director Mariela Castro Espín
- ◆ Discussion with a transmasculine Cuban activist
- ◆ The full text of Leslie Feinberg's 'Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba' and more.

Flight attendants vow to fight as gov't, Air Canada try to crush strike

Update: The strike by Air Canada's flight attendants, which began on Saturday, Aug. 16, ended after a tentative agreement was reached on Tuesday, Aug. 19. The agreement includes a significant pay increase for the lowest-paid workers, those with less than 5 years' seniority and introduces partial pay for some pre-flight work, which was previously unpaid. Ground work that occurs after a flight (such as deplaning) will remain unpaid. The flight attendants are scheduled to vote on the agreement between Aug. 27 and Sept. 6.

By Lev Koufax

The federal government of Canada thought the Air Canada flight attendants' strike was over on the afternoon of Aug. 17, when it ordered 10,000 striking flight attendants and cabin crew members back to work. The Canadian government and its corporate backers thought wrong.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees had announced the strike earlier the same day, which saw all 10,000 members working at Air Canada strike for the first time since 1985. On Sunday afternoon, the Union announced that it would defy the government's back-to-work order. This is a powerful and courageous stand by the airline workers against the unhinged greed of billionaire corporations like Air Canada.

The workers and the union clearly feel that they are still in a position of strength. Beyond the scientific fact that no industry can run without workers, the Canadian Constitution actually guarantees the right to strike. However, the Canadian government often uses legal technicalities to circumvent this constitutional right and repress strikes.

Under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the government ordered striking rail and dock workers back to work. In those cases, the unions complied. Under these back-to-work orders, unions and management must submit to binding arbitration. This effectively takes the workers' conditions out of their hands and into the hands of a private contractor that's promised to protect corporate interests before all else.

Binding arbitration has been Air Canada management's desire since the



Flight attendants protest in front of the Air Canada headquarters in Montreal, Canada, holding a sign that says: 'Work without pay is theft.'

parties reached an impasse. And that is precisely what the Canadian government wanted to give Air Canada. A core reason the Union of Public Employees called this strike was because binding arbitration requires a permanent waiving of the right to strike.

The crucial issue is Air Canada's refusal to pay flight attendants for time spent on the ground in between flights and for time spent helping passengers board the flight. Air Canada, with its CAD 30.2 billion (about USD 21.97 billion) in assets, has insisted that paying the attendants for this work would absolutely bankrupt the company – a ludicrous accusation.

Air Canada rakes in hundreds of millions in profit per quarter. This isn't about whether or not Air Canada would survive salary increases. They would. This is about wealthy billionaires and investment banks insisting on maximized profits at all costs.

The Canadian government is often lauded for its social programs in health care and education. While these programs are progressive, it is important to recognize that they were won through struggle. These programs were not created out of generosity but as concessions to the working class and Indigenous movements in Canada. The Canadian government itself, as it again proved with its response to this strike, is completely subject to corporations and Canada's five major banks.

It is crucial that all progressive forces, really all working-class people broadly, stand in solidarity with the striking Air Canada flight attendants. The last time a

Canadian union refused to comply with a back-to-work order was 1978. The Canadian Parliament eventually held the Postal Workers Union in contempt, fining them severely and jailing the union's president.

If the airline workers are going to avoid that fate, the people of Canada must be mobilized to support the strike. The government and Air Canada have already begun a media campaign to place the blame for canceled flights on the workers and their union.

This lie has to be refuted wherever and whenever possible.

Flight attendants are essential to airline operations and passenger safety. Airlines cannot legally or safely operate without their flight attendants, who serve as the primary safety professionals responsible for passenger protection, emergency response, and regulatory compliance on every flight.

Airlines can operate entirely without parasitic billionaire stockholders and banks that insist on low wages and long hours.

So no matter what the Canadian government, Air Canada, or the Canadian banks throw at the flight attendants, we should all stand with them. Because ultimately, these showdowns between labor and capital – like the one between Air Canada and its flight attendants – always have larger class repercussions. A victory for the flight attendants would be a victory for the entire working class. #

Dialogue with a political prisoner of today

By Jay Burton, Adé T.W. Jackson, Esq., and Scott Scheffer

"We don't get how we are all tied to the prison industrial complex. Nobody's out."

— Mariame Kaba, interviewed by Mahogany L. Browne, 2019

Having a conversation with a political prisoner would be rare under any circumstance, but considering Jay Burton has been wrongfully convicted for 36+ years, the dialogue facilitated by this article is a testament to modern ingenuity and revolutionary spirit. Be sure to follow Jay's freedom campaign on Instagram @Freedom4JayBurton and support his previously published books at the links provided.

The value of words is often misconstrued by the constant sensory blitz of the internet, television, cell phones, and social media algorithms.

However, to a political prisoner like Jay Burton, every word is a lifeline that carries his freedom dreams. None is taken for granted.

Instead of your typical back and forth, the contents of this article have been stitched together from multiple discussions and correspondence between the authors.

So how best to frame the injustice that has stolen Jay Burton from his community, his loved ones, and challenged the fullness of his humanity?

Let him tell you himself

Scott Scheffer: So Jay, you were framed up at 16 by L.A. County Sheriff's deputies that were a part of one of the many gangs in the L.A. County Sheriff's Department (the Lynwood Vikings), can you tell us some of the details of how they cooked up evidence against you and the lack of a fair trial?

Jay Burton: There are many facts surrounding my 1989 arrest. On July 18, 1989, I was arrested for a burglary that I participated in with a couple of friends. They got away, but I was caught in the act of burglarizing a car. I was sent to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall in Downey, California, where I remained until Sept. 28, 1989.



Jay Burton

During the summer of 1989, as I was fighting the burglary case in juvenile court, I was subsequently bound over to adult court to face murder and five attempted murder charges. Never once had I been officially charged with the murder and attempted murder; however, I was convicted in June of 1990 of all counts, one murder and five attempted murders.

At my trial, there was an informant who testified that lead detectives Ronald Sale and Dale Christensen were members of the Lynwood Vikings, a L.A. County Sheriff's Department gang. The informant testified that he was on drugs, and he was trying to work a deal with the prosecution because he was fighting several cases while being held in the Los Angeles County Jail. Part of the informant's job was to testify that he saw me get out of a car that was allegedly used in a gang drive-by shooting.

However, during my 1990 trial, the informant recanted all of his previous testimony. Meaning he admitted the inaccuracy of everything he had previously testified to during my trial. He had admitted that he was only informing for the prosecution so he could get a lesser sentence and get out of his own trouble.

This made it clear in front of the jury that he was lying about ever telling the detectives that he saw me in the car after the shooting occurred.

The District Attorney came up with

a story stating that the informant was scared to testify against me. Despite the shaky informant, their argument hinged on a piece of physical evidence they claim contains the fingerprint of my left ring finger, the grip of an AK-47.

My trial attorney never once asked for a copy of the photographic evidence the DA claimed. Never questioned its authenticity. Nothing.

So basically, the Lynwood Vikings made a false narrative that I was just another gang banger who shot at a rival gang, the DA manufactured false evidence that they claim shows my fingerprint on the alleged murder weapon, and it was never proven at trial that the gun they claim even did the crimes they convicted me of.

And, for the record, I am 100% sure that the fingerprint on the murder weapon does not belong to me. But I can only prove that if the L.A. Sheriff's Department or the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office turns over the fingerprint itself, which they have failed to do for over 36 years.

I continue to maintain my innocence despite the falsified features of my trials.

Scott: We've learned that during your long incarceration, you've studied law and become someone that other inmates rely on for legal help. Can you talk about that a little bit for our readers?

Jay: During the years of my incarceration, I have become an advocate for social justice. I have become what they call a "jailhouse lawyer" and have successfully filed post-conviction appeals for other prisoners. I've also settled civil lawsuits against the state for the housing conditions I am subjected to.

To put it plainly, I have become a threat to the establishment because I refuse to conform to the slavery I've been condemned to.

Scott: Can you give us some details about the punishment you've endured at the hands of the prison administration during the 36-plus years of your incarceration? Do you think your time has been impacted by your political awareness?

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The Mamdani NYC mayoral campaign,

By Sharon Black

Zohran Mamdani's victory in the New York City Democratic mayoral primary makes the self-proclaimed democratic socialist poised to become the first Muslim person of South Asian descent to hold this position.

Mamdani's crushing defeat of Democratic political dynasty heir Andrew Cuomo — surging from a mere 1% in early polls to a commanding 56% final victory — shattered the expectations of so-called election “experts” over which corrupt representative of the elite would fill the seat.

Mamdani campaigned for an affordable New York City. His platform calls for free and faster buses, making City University of New York tuition free, freezing rents on rent-stabilized housing, free child care for children between the ages of six weeks and five years, and setting up a city-run grocery store in every borough to drive down food prices. To pay for these programs, the campaign is proposing a 2% increase in the income tax for city residents who earn more than \$1 million a year.

His campaign has also called for a “Department of Community Safety” tasked with responding to mental health crises and homelessness with community-based services as opposed to intervention by the NYPD.

Despite the many pro-Zionist media attacks on Zohran Mamdani's open support for Palestine, he won, underscoring how the working class and youth are increasingly rejecting the manufactured consent for imperialism and apartheid. Mamdani's open solidarity with Palestine was not a liability but a catalyst, mobilizing a base that supports Palestine against starvation and genocide.

Two city council elections in Brooklyn also reflected this. A landslide vote re-elected both Shahana Hanif, a progressive Muslim, and Alexa Aviles, a DSA member, despite Solidarity PAC (New York City's local version of AIPAC) financing opponents.

These results show how the massive street mobilizations and global resistance are reverberating in the electoral battlefield as well.

New York City, the capital of capitalism

The Financial Times quoted an anonymous Wall Street executive responding to Mamdani's platform: “Why would we adopt [it] in the world's capital of capitalism?”

Yes, New York City is the capital of finance capitalism, and what happens in NYC has national and ultimately international repercussions.

It is home to the Wall Street Stock Market and megabanks like JPMorgan Chase, as well as shadow banks like BlackRock, the largest asset manager in the world.

Some 384,500 millionaires, 818 centimillionaires (those with at least \$100 million in assets), and 66 billionaires list residences in New York City. According to the Visual Capitalist, NYC is the wealthiest city in the world based on its millionaire population.

This parasitic class of landlords and bankers is losing its mind over this development. Donald Trump, a real estate mogul himself, has called for deporting Mamdani. It's impossible to keep up with the amount of slander and attacks from both Democratic and Republican bosses.

NYC also home to millions of workers

There are over 8 million working-class people living in New York City, and over 19 million workers and their families in the metropolitan area. These are the people who keep NYC running. They run the buses, trains, and subways, staff the hospitals and all the offices, clean the streets, pick up the trash, keep the sweatshops running, and much more.

New York City is one of the most diverse cities in the country and in the world. As many as 800 languages are spoken in New York, making it the most linguistically diverse city in the world. Approximately 36% of its residents are foreign-born. The Puerto Rican, Chinese, South Asian, Dominican, Mexican, Ecuadorian, and Haitian communities each number hundreds of thousands of people.

Trump's assault on D.C. & Black mayors

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a submarine sandwich towards a cop.

Immigrants and homeless people are special targets. Trump vows to drive homeless people “far from the capital” as encampments are being torn down. The biggest crime under capitalism is to be poor.

Trump said that he was “looking into” overthrowing Washington, D.C.'s municipal government by revoking home rule for the federal territory. Utah Sen. Mike Lee and Tennessee Rep. Andy Ogles have already introduced bills in Congress to do so. The Tennessee statesman and Islamophobic bigot is also demanding that New York City mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani be deported.

At his news conference, Trump threatened to send troops to Chicago, New York City, Baltimore and Oakland, California, after already doing so in Los Angeles. All

these cities have Black mayors.

As Larry Hamm, chairperson of the New Jersey-based People's Organization for Progress, pointed out, “Trump's attack on Washington, D.C., is an attack on Black self-determination and Black political power which are seen as obstacles by white supremacists to their apartheid agenda for the U.S.”

It's been revealed that the Pentagon is preparing secret plans to establish a “Domestic Civil Disturbance Quick Reaction Force” to crush anti-Trump protests. “The plan calls for 600 troops to be on standby at all times so they can deploy in as little as one hour,” according to the Washington Post.

Back in 2020, when millions of people took to the streets during the Black Lives Matter movement, Trump wanted to declare martial law. Will this “Quick Reaction Force” also be used to help cancel

the 2026 or 2028 elections?

The scheme's author is Elbridge Colby, the Defense Department's undersecretary for policy. Colby is primarily known as an anti-China war hawk.

It's another example of the link between U.S. imperialism's wars abroad and its continuous war against poor people at home. Future Pentagon bosses Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney dismantled anti-poverty programs for Nixon.

One of Colby's grandfathers was the late war criminal and CIA director William Colby. During the Vietnam War, the senior Colby was head of Operation Phoenix, which assassinated thousands of Vietnamese people.

A 600-strong “Quick Reaction Force” might be too small to stop hundreds of thousands of people from protesting. Is it being prepared to take out movement organizers instead? #

‘Which side are you on?’

New York City has the largest Black population of any city in the U.S., comprising 20.2% of the city’s residents. What do the wealthy elite fear?

What really unsettles the billionaire class is the possibility that Mamdani’s election might interrupt their endless stream of insider deals — but their fears run even deeper.

The capitalist drive for profit ensures that bosses fight tooth and nail against even the most modest and justified demands. Relief from crushing inflation — nothing less than a hidden wage cut — is a basic right for workers. It takes not only the threat of the guillotine, but their actual necks in it, to wrestle concessions from the bosses, especially in a period of capitalist contraction and crisis, when the system finds it close to impossible to do so.

Those bosses and bankers most attuned to their ruling class interests fear something even worse: that this spark could rouse the working class, transforming demands for reform into a struggle for workers’ power.

Once New York City’s vast working class awakens, no handful of billionaires, millionaires, and financial speculators can stand in its way.

What must the workers prepare for?

Of course, the ruling class’s first line of defense will be to defeat Zohran Mamdani in the November election, sparing no expense and leaving no lie untold to achieve it — a battle we are witnessing in real time. Behind the scenes, they will also maneuver to chip away at the campaign’s demands.

By their very nature, bourgeois elections temper political demands in a conservative direction, making these pressures predictable. Should Mamdani compromise excessively, it would destroy the campaign. Yet, unless unexpected developments arise, the campaign’s core energy and platform remain largely intact, positioning it to win.

If Zohran wins, the next and possibly more important battle will be how to implement the very program that inspired the victory.

This is where the question of arousing the working class to fight in its own interest is of the most importance to class-conscious workers and revolutionaries.

The NYPD, real estate tycoons & bankers

Regardless of who is at the mayoral helm, the question of who holds the power and



Union support for Zohran Mamdani.

whose interests the state — and in this particular case, the New York City Police Department — serves and defends will become front and center. It will be the obstacle.

The New York City Police Department (NYPD), with a documented history of corruption and police brutality, is the largest municipal police force in the country. Its official budget is \$10.8 billion — costing NYC workers approximately \$29.6 million per day — though the true figure is often obscured. The department employs 36,000 uniformed officers, making it larger than the active militaries of several nations, including Belgium and Ireland, Jamaica and Panama. Its international reach is extensive, with offices and detectives stationed in 15 cities across 12 countries in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and the Americas.

When a banker feels threatened by an unhoused person outside their building, when protesters block a company funding Israel, or when workers refuse to tolerate slave wages, billionaires don’t negotiate — they call the NYPD. One phone call, and they expect arrests, removals, jail time. The message is clear: Power protects profit, and the city enforces it.

Billionaire Jessica Tisch, heiress to a real estate empire that spans much of New York City, is presently the police commissioner of the New York Police Department. Rumors have swirled about a possible mayoral run. This isn’t a representative of the rich running the department; it’s the rich running the department themselves.

Any Mamdani administration will undoubtedly have to contend with this reactionary force and those that stand behind them. This includes the future of the Cop City training complex being built in Queens and how to dismantle the “Strategic Response Group,” the special 800-strong battalion of cops notorious for abusing the constitutional rights of protesters.

Removing this reactionary clique will not be simple. The people have to prepare for a fight.

Which side are you on?

In 1931, miners and mine owners were locked in a bitter and violent struggle called the “Harlan County War.” Florence Reece, a daughter of a coal miner and companion of union organizer Sam Reece, updated the lyrics to a song she composed at the age of 12, “Which Side Are You On?” The song’s raw and resolute message became the union’s battle call.

Today in New York City, that same question rings true. We did not decide this battle; our opponents did. In essence, the mayoral race in November will serve as a referendum on these issues. As revolutionary socialists, our central concern is the workers’ struggle. Its awakening is crucial, and we will be there — not in defense of a corrupt and decaying system, but present to defend the picket line, organizing for an end to the rule of billionaires. Will an election end the capitalist system? No. But a revolutionary movement of the working class can. #

10,000 march in NYC to stop the

'March for Humanity' hears Chris Smalls and Mahmoud Khalil

By Stephen Millies

Aug. 16 — People came from up and down the East Coast to New York City today to protest the deliberate starvation of Palestinians in Gaza. Behind the Zionist apartheid regime carrying out the genocide are its U.S. paymasters.

Protesters gathered in front of the famous New York Public Library on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue. The crowd was so large that it spilled into the street. People carried hundreds of colorful banners, signs and Palestinian flags.

Among the speakers was the courageous activist and scholar Mahmoud Khalil, who was illegally seized by ICE agents and spent 104 days in a Louisiana prison. Khalil's "crime," according to Secretary of State Marco Rubio, was that his activism to save Palestinian lives allegedly harmed U.S. foreign policy.

To Rubio, First Amendment guarantees of free speech don't exist for immigrants

or any other opponents of Trump. Yet this fascist was confirmed as Secretary of State by a 99-0 vote in the U.S. Senate, including every Democratic member.

Mahmoud Khalil movingly described the assassination of the Al Jazeera correspondent Anas al-Sharif, along with six other people, in Gaza. Over 240 journalists have been murdered in Gaza by Zionist war criminals in an attempt to suppress the truth.

Chris Smalls, the founder of the Amazon Labor Union, was welcomed by the thousands assembled. Smalls was a crew member of the Handala, a ship attempting to bring life-saving supplies to Gaza that was seized last month in international waters by the Zionist entity's navy.

The labor leader was the only Black member of the crew and the only one beaten by Zionist thugs. It's shameful that the AFL-CIO leadership didn't condemn this racist attack.

Stop starving Gaza!

Miriam Osman spoke from the Palestinian Youth Movement and Layan Fuleihan spoke from The People's Forum. Both organizations helped to organize the protest.

Bint Au Musa, from PAL-AWDA, the Palestinian Assembly for Liberation, read a letter from a doctor in Gaza. Eugene Puryear spoke from the Party for Socialism and Liberation.

The ANSWER Coalition's national coordinator, Brian Becker, revealed that Marco Rubio is cancelling visas for Palestinians, including children in Gaza seeking cancer treatment in the U.S.

People moved out to march through the streets. Chants bounced off Manhattan skyscrapers as many people on the sidewalks showed their support. The hour-long march ended in Central Park, where a short rally was held.

Palestine will win! #

New Orleans Palestine march:

'This has become the flag of humanity itself'

By Gregory E. Williams

New Orleans, Aug. 9 — This evening, around 200 people marched for Palestine downtown, at one point taking over Canal Street, the central vein of business and tourism.

Many were gathered for the popular Red Dress Run charity event. Most responses from the crowd were supportive, a handful of Zionist hecklers notwithstanding.

The march was organized by the Palestinian Youth Movement New Orleans and a dozen other organizations, including Party for Socialism and Liberation and Freedom Road Socialist Organization. In the opening rally, a PYM organizer said:

"The Palestinian flag has become the flag of humanity itself, the banner of all those who refuse to accept genocide as normal. That's you!

"On Thursday, [U.S. representative for Louisiana] Troy Carter was so terrified of Palestinian voices that he shut down an entire federal building with 16 state police cars, for five hours. A 28-story building fortress, all to avoid hearing three simple words: Stop funding genocide!

"But we are here to say what they don't want to hear. Troy Carter, John Kennedy, Mike Johnson, Steve Scalise — all these people you see in pictures right here next to us — you are guilty!

"Guilty of sending \$20 billion of OUR



New Orleans March for Palestine

SLL photo: Gregory E. Williams

money and weapons while Palestinians eat grass to live. You closed your office to us, but you cannot close your ears to Gaza's screams. You cannot close your ears to history's judgement — God's judgement. And you cannot close the gates of justice that we're bringing down right now!" #

genocide in Gaza



Marching through the streets of New York City, Aug. 16.

SLL photo

Dialogue with a political prisoner of today

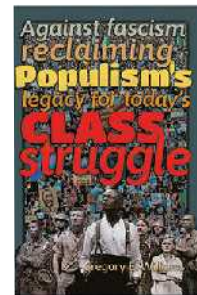
Continued from page 5

Jay: Because I took on the path to help prisoners and to fight against an unjust system, I have been treated like a target to be disposed of. I previously was forced to serve some 9 years in solitary confinement.

Yes, I have spent time in solitary for disciplinary reasons as well. I am probably what is considered a “program failure” in prison. Not that I am bragging about being a program failure, I refuse to conform to a system built on oppression.

Scott: As supporters spread the word about your case, what do you think is the most important message we need to tell people?

Jay: That no 16-year-old child should ever be sitting behind bars for decades, guilty or innocent. Do not allow this prison, a state-sanctioned killing factory, to continue this theft of my life, my freedom, and my humanity. I want to go home and be with my family. HELP ME. #FreeJayBurton
Follow my campaign for freedom
@Freedom4JayBurton #



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Trump: warmonger in chief

By Gary Wilson

Donald Trump's claim of stopping "six wars" since January 2025 — boasting he's "averaging about a war a month" — is a farce meant to obscure his actual warmongering. Fact-checkers rate his sweeping declaration as "Mostly False."

The president's bombastic rhetoric reached its peak during his July 28 meeting with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer in Scotland, where he theatrically announced solving his "sixth" conflict with the Cambodia-Thailand ceasefire.

Trump cited several conflicts, including those between India and Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, Serbia and Kosovo, Egypt and Ethiopia, Israel and Iran, as well as Thailand and Cambodia.

Fact-checkers note that while Trump claims to have had a hand in temporary ceasefires, there are no permanent resolutions or direct U.S. intervention in any of the cited cases. Indian officials, including External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, have explicitly denied any U.S. involvement in the India-Pakistan ceasefire, stating there was "no third-party intervention."

And Trump has not ended the major U.S. wars in Gaza and Ukraine or the massive military buildup against China in the Pacific.

The farce is revealed in the reports that President Donald Trump and his supporters have coined a new nickname for him: the "peacemaker-in-chief," saying that he deserves a Nobel Prize for this.

The U.S.-NATO proxy war expands

President Trump said he will be meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Aug. 15 in Alaska. NBC News reports that Trump is considering inviting Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky to Alaska.

As background, the U.S.-NATO proxy war against Russia was triggered by the expansion of NATO surrounding Russia, with NATO's 2008 Bucharest pledge to incorporate Ukraine and Georgia.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, NATO expanded to nearly every country in Eastern Europe, aiming to lock in capitalist retrenchment in the formerly socialist countries.

The countries put under NATO include Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Albania, Romania, Bulgaria, Montenegro, and North Macedonia.

In 2008, NATO put the inclusion of Ukraine and Georgia, both bordering Russia, on the table.

The threatened expansion of NATO's military force to Ukraine, on the bor-

der of Russia, along with NATO naval operations in the Black Sea, were direct provocations aimed at Russia. As Leon Panetta — White House Chief of Staff under Bill Clinton, CIA Director and Secretary of Defense under Barack Obama — explained, the conflict in Ukraine is a NATO "proxy war" against Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's special military operation in Ukraine was primarily motivated by NATO's eastward expansion, a strategic concern that continues to shape Moscow's demands for Ukrainian neutrality.

In December 2021, Putin formally demanded that NATO roll back its presence in Eastern Europe, viewing the imperialist alliance's expansion as an existential threat. His draft treaty, presented to President Joe Biden, explicitly called for "pushing NATO away from Russia's borders."

The "Special Military Operation" (SMO) in 2022 was aimed at denazification (neo-Nazis governing Ukraine) and demilitarization, as well as the protection of Donbass.

The Ukraine regime was imposed in February 2014 by a U.S.-backed coup that overthrew the elected government. The far-right regime represents Western imperialist interests, local oligarchs and neo-Nazis. The residents of Ukraine's Donetsk and Lugansk regions did not recognize the new regime. In April 2014, in the Donbass mining region, the autonomous Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics (DPR and LPR) were declared.

The Kiev regime, backed by U.S. military and political advisers, never recognized the autonomous republics and began military operations against Donetsk and Luhansk. Bombing and air raids targeted the civilian population, killing at least 15,000. Kiev massed an occupation army in the region. In February 2022, the DPR and LPR asked Russia for aid. That's when Russia began its Special Military Operation, sending troops into DPR and LPR to secure their territorial integrity.

What Russia has demanded is the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine and the removal of NATO. That's nonnegotiable.

That's not what Trump is offering. Instead, Trump is expanding NATO around Russia into Armenia and Azerbaijan.



Healthcare workers protest mass starvation in Gaza, in Cape Town, South Africa, Aug. 7.

Continued on page 12

Proxy war in ruins: How U.S. & NATO led Ukraine to disaster

By Gary Wilson

On Aug. 12, Russia's Foreign Ministry reported that Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio had discussed preparations for an Aug. 15 summit in Alaska between President Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump. Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov confirmed the meeting, saying the talks would center on a "long-term peaceful settlement" to the conflict, with a future round potentially taking place on Russian soil.

The tides of war in Ukraine have shifted decisively. Russia's military is surging across eastern Ukraine, smashing through heavily fortified lines while the Ukrainian government teeters on the edge of collapse. These developments expose the inherent failure of U.S.-NATO proxy warfare.

Russia advances, Ukraine on the brink

The summer of 2025 has seen the most significant Russian military gains since the war began. In early August, Moscow's forces captured the heavily fortified city of Chasov Yar in the Donetsk People's Republic, after over a year of bitter fighting. This was followed by a breakthrough into the Dnipropetrovsk region, a key industrial and population hub that had been out of Russia's reach for three years.

Russian forces, using overwhelming firepower — including over 1,300 FAB bombs in a single push — have breached Ukraine's second Donbass defensive line.

Even Western media are acknowledging the scale of the shift. The New York Times' July 19 report on "Why Russia Is Gaining Ground in Ukraine," says that Russia's combination of troop numbers, air superiority, and artillery dominance has produced its largest monthly territorial gains since early 2025. Ukrainian brigades, some reduced to fewer than 100 soldiers covering miles of front, are crumbling under the pressure.

Political crisis in Kiev

The military collapse is being mirrored by political turmoil at home. Facing catastrophic casualties and a recruitment crisis, the Zelensky government



Anti-corruption protest in Kiev on July 25.

has turned to coercive conscription — dragging men off the streets and raising the age barrier to pull in older recruits, some over 60 years old.

Protests are growing in Kiev, Odessa, Lviv, and Dnipro. Anger at corruption erupted in late July, with mass demonstrations demanding the reinstatement of anti-corruption agencies. In a surreal scene, Ukrainian lawmakers brawled in parliament before voting unanimously to restore the agencies they had recently disbanded.

The reality is stark: Zelensky's government survives only through U.S. and NATO backing, and with that support now politically unstable in Washington and Europe, its legitimacy is rapidly eroding.

Washington's desperation

The White House's response has oscillated between erratic escalation and empty bravado. Instead of "peace in 24 hours" (as promised), President Trump's administration has advanced new arms shipments, including \$300 million worth of Patriot missile batteries. Not satisfied with merely fueling the bloodshed, Trump shortened his ultimatum to Putin from "50 days" to "10," and provocatively deployed U.S. nuclear submarines off Russia's coast.

Yet these gestures, born of imperial hubris and panic, are unlikely to reverse the battlefield realities. Russia's advance expands daily; Ukraine's forces are

outnumbered, outgunned, and exhausted. The only rational outcome — should Washington step back from the brink — is Russian victory and the collapse of the U.S. / NATO proxy project.

The proxy war's failure

From the start, the Ukraine conflict was never just about Ukraine. It was a U.S.-NATO project aimed at weakening Russia and expanding imperialist control in Eastern Europe. Billions of dollars in weapons and economic aid were funneled into Kiev to advance the interests of imperialist finance capital.

Now, with the Ukrainian army collapsing and Russia on the offensive, the mask has slipped. The war has bled Ukraine white, devastated its economy, and turned its population into cannon fodder. The people of Ukraine have paid the price — while Western arms manufacturers and energy giants have reaped historic profits.

What comes next?

With Ukraine's military near collapse and its government fracturing, the war's trajectory is clear: Russia will prevail. The only question is whether the U.S. and NATO will recklessly escalate further, risking a global conflict, or accept that their proxy war has failed.

For now, the suffering continues — while Russia advances, Ukraine crumbles, and the U.S. scrambles for a way out. #

Trump: warmonger in chief

Continued from page 10

On Aug. 8, the White House hosted Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev for a U.S.-brokered agreement that will expand NATO's presence in the strategic South Caucasus region bordering Russia.

The two countries will withdraw from the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). And the Russian news agency TASS reports that the U.S. privately offered both Armenia and Azerbaijan a path to NATO membership.

TASS also reports that U.S. troops may deploy to Armenia, ostensibly as peacekeepers or military advisers. The White House has not confirmed these claims, but if true, it would mirror U.S. tactics in Ukraine before the 2022 Russian special military operation.

Trump fuels Gaza genocide

During his 2024 campaign, Trump promised to end the war in Gaza. On the campaign trail, Trump repeatedly expressed his intention to wrap up the conflict quickly and bring peace to the region.

CHINA Celebrating 75 years of liberation

October 1, 2024, marks the 75th anniversary of China's transformative revolution, which liberated the nation from feudal oppression and imperialist control. Today, China stands as a global scientific powerhouse, boasting achievements in pollution reduction, and space exploration. China has made significant strides in healthcare, education, and sports.

This book aims to illuminate the growing dangers posed by a potential U.S. war against China and to reveal the real enemies of the working class.



<https://tinyurl.com/USWarChina>

He notably said, "Get it over with and let's get back to peace and stop killing people."

On Aug. 9, The Hill reported, President Trump gave a tacit green light for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to take over the Gaza Strip.

Actually, this fits with Trump's long-term proposal to take over the Gaza Strip, "level the site" (i.e., total war), and transform it into a luxurious resort destination — explicitly likening it to a potential "Riviera of the Middle East." That's not peace for the people of Palestine, that's total destruction and genocide.

Zionist-occupied Palestine — "Israel" — is an apartheid settler state, more like a U.S. colony. Joe Biden famously said in 1986: "If there were not an Israel, we'd have to invent one."

Since its beginning, Israel has been a U.S.-funded and armed military outpost. Gen. Alexander Haig, Ronald Reagan's Secretary of State, said in 1971 that Israel is "the largest American aircraft carrier in the world that cannot be sunk."

Imperialist escalation against China

The United States and its NATO allies appear determined to spark another devastating conflict, this time in the Taiwan Strait. Washington is arming Taiwan's military with advanced strike systems capable of hitting deep into the Chinese mainland, bringing most of China's largest cities within range of U.S.-made missiles.

The Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS- pronounced "Attack 'ems") is a long-range, precision-guided missile system developed by the United States. The arms deal includes 84 launch vehicles — both M270 tracked and M142 wheeled variants. The first batch of 11 launchers arrived in November 2024, with the first M142 units formally deployed this July. These weapons give the

U.S. military new long-range strike capabilities, openly aimed at the People's Republic of China.

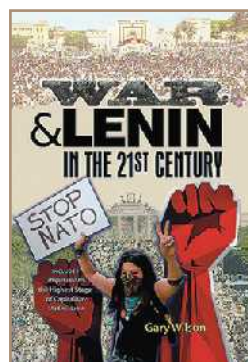
These mobile launchers fire compact missiles that can be deployed in large numbers, enabling the unleashing of hundreds of strikes on mainland targets. This would put major population centers such as Shanghai, Nanjing, Guangzhou, and Hong Kong directly in the crosshairs.

Washington's ATACMS systems have already been battle-tested in Ukraine, where they have been used — with U.S. and NATO satellite and targeting support — to hit Russian air defense sites, radars, ballistic missile launchers, and even civilian infrastructure such as energy pipelines as well as Russia's civilian population centers.

The island of Taiwan — internationally recognized by the UN and most of the world as part of China — has been a focal point of imperialist interference for over a century. First seized by Japan, then used by the United States after 1949 as a Cold War outpost, Taiwan has long been exploited as a lever to undermine Beijing's sovereignty. While the opposition Kuomintang acknowledges that Taiwan cannot survive without economic and political ties to the mainland, the ruling Democratic Progressive Party has aligned itself with Washington's imperialist agenda.

Washington's militarization of Taiwan goes beyond missiles. U.S. arms manufacturer Anduril Industries is supplying "Altius-600M" loitering munitions — AI-driven kamikaze drones — under a new deal with Taiwan's defense ministry. Anduril's partnerships with other Pentagon-linked tech firms, including Palantir, are accelerating the integration of advanced U.S. military technology into Taiwan's forces. Similar AI-based systems have already been used in Ukraine.

#



WAR & LENIN in the 21st Century

Included in Gary Wilson's new book is VI Lenin's pamphlet:

'Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism'

Vladimir Lenin, the revolutionary leader of the Soviet Union and a key contributor to Marxist theory, wrote "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism" in 1916, more than a century ago. It remains an influential critique of imperialism. As in Lenin's time, the conclusion is that socialist revolution will end imperialist war, enabling workers to meet their own needs.

Paperback or kindle at tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar



Venezuelan people rise to defend the homeland against imperialism

By Alejandra Garcia

Venezuela is once again facing a psychological and media offensive from the U.S. government, led by President Donald Trump. This week, White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt reaffirmed Washington's aggressive and interventionist policy, declaring that her country "is willing to use all elements of U.S. power" to halt the alleged flow of drugs into its territory and "bring those responsible to justice."

Her remarks come amid controversy and alarm over the deployment of three warships carrying 4,000 soldiers to Caribbean waters near Venezuela—an action that Caracas interprets as a clear military provocation. In her statements, Leavitt dismissed the legitimacy of the constitutional government of President Nicolás Maduro Moros, who was re-elected in July 2024 with broad popular support despite destabilization efforts by the far right backed by Washington. She even went so far as to describe the Venezuelan government as a "narco-terror cartel," echoing the interventionist narrative of the United States.

DEA and drug trafficking as a pretext

In the same vein, the director of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Terry Cole, accused Venezuela — without evidence — of collaborating with Colombian guerrillas and Mexican cartels to traffic drugs into the United States, he also followed in line by saying the country had become a "narco-terrorist state."

Venezuela's response was swift. Executive Vice President Delcy Rodríguez denounced these allegations as an attempt to justify new imperialist aggressions aimed at seizing the nation's vast energy resources and undermining Bolivarian internationalism.

Rodríguez emphasized that the DEA's own official reports—National Drug Threat Assessment 2024 and 2025—do not mention Venezuela as a significant factor in drug trafficking, exposing the lack of credibility behind the accusations. "This is a crude ploy to tarnish our country's image and pave the way for further aggression," she stated.



National Bolivarian Militia to defend Venezuela's "territory, sovereignty, and peace."

This military incursion into the Caribbean to stop drug trafficking is a fake narrative. The Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) reports that only about 7 percent of U.S.-bound cocaine transits through the Eastern Caribbean via Venezuela, while approximately 90 percent takes Western Caribbean and Eastern Pacific routes. UNODC's 2025 World Drug Report likewise confirms that trafficking remains concentrated in major Andean corridors, not through Venezuela. The issue is not drugs but bringing down the Bolivarian government which is at the top of US foreign policy priorities.

Bolivarian response in defense of sovereignty

The Bolivarian Government warned that these threats not only endanger Venezuela's stability but also jeopardize regional peace, directly contradicting the Zone of Peace declared by CELAC in 2014,

which promotes sovereignty and cooperation among Latin American nations.

President Nicolás Maduro underscored the role of the Venezuelan people and the Bolivarian National Militia as guarantors of territorial defense. "We have broken, as Chavez once did, with military dependence on the 'gringo' empire and its occupation armies that inflicted so much damage on Latin America," the president declared.

He announced a national enlistment process for all militia forces next weekend, which will be deployed across barracks, military units, Bolívar squares, and the 15,751 popular comprehensive defense bases throughout the country. Maduro also urged the National Defense System to maintain constant coordination among civil, military, police, and political structures to ensure comprehensive defense. He went on to say The people are mobilized and united.

"While Washington threatens, Venezuela advances firmly in peace and sovereignty. True effectiveness against crime is achieved by respecting the independence of peoples," Maduro affirmed, directly countering the imperial strategy of harassment.

Alejandra Garcia is a correspondent for Resumen Latinoamericano in Havana and a nightly anchor on Telesur evening news

Source: Resumen Latinoamericano -English



Taiwan's residents reject being Washington's proxy in its war against Socialist China

By Chris Fry

The Pentagon's war plans against the People's Republic of China (PRC) have hit a snag. On July 27, Taiwan's residents voted to reject the ruling secessionist Democratic Peoples Party's (DPP) bid to recall 24 opposition Kuomintang (KMT) legislators. The KMT, just as pro-capitalist as the DPP, nevertheless favors continuing dialogue and improved relations with the PRC.

And it agrees with the "one China policy" accepted by the vast majority of nations around the world. Its leaders have traveled to mainland China to hold trade and cultural talks with the PRC leadership, defying the U.S.-supported DPP leadership.

Another recall election of seven more KMT legislators is scheduled for August, but as an NPR article points out: "if Saturday's results provide an indication, analysts suggest it is unlikely the second round of votes will allow the government to reclaim control of the parliament."

This development is not going to halt U.S. imperialism's arming Taiwan with the latest missile and other military technology ready to launch a full-scale war against Socialist China without the consent of Taiwan's residents.

DPP's wave of repression meets mass resistance

The Taiwan recall attempt is only one part of the DPP campaign to serve their U.S. masters by coercing Taiwan's residents to accept becoming proxies in Washington's war against Socialist China, now on the Pentagon's drawing board.

A July Wall Street Journal article titled "Taiwan Tries to Purge Its Ranks of China Sympathizers" reports that:

"Taiwan has embarked on a mission to purge any allies of Beijing from its civil service in an escalating battle against China's influence.

"In the past few weeks, Taiwan expanded the ID-vetting process to local governments, schools and universities, telling administrators to punish employees who hold or have applied for Chinese identity cards but failed to report doing so.

"A spokeswoman for Beijing's Taiwan Affairs Office said... that Taipei was attempting to 'undermine efforts to bring people on both sides of the strait closer together.'"

Even mainland-born spouses of Taiwan residents are being threatened, as a July 8 Taiwan News article reported: "1,668 spouses in Taiwan miss deadline to renounce Chinese household registration."

Many of these are being told that they will lose their permanent residence status.

The news agency AFP reported in a July article titled:

"Taiwan pursues homegrown Chinese spies as Beijing's influence grows" that even top officials in the DPP executive branch are being targeted: "Prosecutors last week charged four recently expelled members of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party — including a former staffer in President Lai Ching-te's office — for sharing state secrets with Beijing."

All of this is bitterly ironic, since the DPP gained it popularity by being an alternative to the KMT, which imposed the "White Terror" 40 years of martial law on Taiwan's residents, jailing tens of thousands and murdering between three and four thousand residents,

Now it's the DPP itself sparking this wave of repression to force the people of Taiwan to fight a war that only serves the interests of U.S. imperialism.

The DPP repressive campaign has sparked mass resistance, as the Hong Kong news site Dimsum reported on April 27:

"In a rainy Taipei on Saturday, more than 250,000 people gathered to protest what they described as the 'dictatorship' of Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities.

"The demonstration occurred amidst growing discontent over the DPP's 'mass recall' campaign, launched earlier this year, which targeted legislative representatives affiliated with the KMT. Protesters also denounced recent searches conducted against KMT offices across Taiwan, viewing these actions as part of a broader effort to suppress opposition voices."

Trump is not happy with the DPP.

Trump is a fickle master, unhappy with the DPP failure to mobilize the residents behind the U.S. war drive against China. He is threatening a massive 20 percent tariff on Taiwan's goods sold in the U.S. Trump's tariffs are vital for Silicon Valley's accumulation of capital for its Artificial Intelligence and Cryptocurrency schemes.

Trump even told Taiwan's DPP "President" Lai not to bother stopping in New York City to drum up support for Taiwan's "independence." This was supposed to be a main part of Lai's tour of the few remaining small countries left in the world that still recognize Taiwan rather than the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The White House announced that this "blocking" of Lai was "to enable trade talks with the PRC." Certainly, China's suspension of the sale of rare earth minerals needed for computer hardware has created enormous difficulties for U.S. imperialism.

Now Trump is demanding that India stop purchasing oil from the Russian Federation, which is locked in a war with the U.S. and NATO proxy Ukraine. India has refused to halt those purchases. So, Trump has imposed a 50 per cent tariff on India's exports to the U.S.

China, which is in the midst of trade negotiations with the U.S., has already refused Trump's demand to stop buying Russian oil. Obviously, Trump is trying to drive a wedge between India, Russia and China.

But observers note that instead this strategy is actually driving the three countries — Russia, India and China — together:

"Donald Trump's second-term foreign policy has triggered a geopolitical earthquake that may be reshaping the global order in ways Washington never intended. His aggressive trade tactics, including a 25% [now 50 per cent-cf] tariff on Indian goods and threats of 100% tariffs on China, are inadvertently pushing three historical rivals closer together in what could mark the beginning of a new Eurasian power axis."

Prime Minister Modi of India, who has recently worked out an important settlement of the ongoing border dispute with



Protest in Taiwan.

the PRC, announced that he will be making his first visit to China in seven years to attend the multilateral Shanghai Cooperation Organization on August 31. India made this announcement the day after Trump escalated tariffs against India.

Washington escalates war preparations on Taiwan's soil

But Trump's continuing failure to force China into submission to imperialism has only emboldened him to escalate military war preparation in Taiwan, with the full assent of the DPP government, but without support of Taiwan's residents.

On May 12, CNN reported:

"Taiwan on Monday test-fired for the first time a new US-supplied rocket system that has been widely used by Ukraine against Russia and could be deployed to hit targets in China if there is a war with Taiwan.

"Taiwan has bought 29 of Lockheed Martin's precision weapon High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, with the first batch of 11 received last year and the rest set to arrive by next year.

"With a range of about 300 kilometers (186 miles), they could hit coastal targets in China's southern province of Fujian, on the other side of the Taiwan Strait, in the event of conflict.

"The US-trained Taiwan military team fired the rockets from the Jiupeng test center on a remote part of the Pacific coast."

The U.S. is doing more than just training. With all the U.S. missile shipments going to the corrupt Ukraine proxy, it has fallen behind with such shipments to Taiwan.

So, the U.S. "persuaded" Taiwan to build its own long range offensive missiles. As the Taiwan News reported on June 7:

"Taiwan has reportedly produced 100 Hsiung Sheng surface-to-surface missiles with a range of up to 1,200 kilometers.

"An unnamed senior military official told Liberty Times on Saturday that

the Hsiung Sheng missile system has already completed its initial mass production phase.

"The official was quoted as saying the production model of the Hsiung Sheng missile has a range of 1,200 km, and National Chung-Shan Institute of Science & Technology researchers are working to push this further. 'Naturally, the goal is the range of the latest US and Japanese missiles.'"

The military web site SOFREP reported in June that there are now more than 500 US military personnel in Taiwan. Since the Pentagon lists only 41 soldiers there, it can be assumed that most are expert contractors to make sure all the missiles and other "high tech" weapons are "up

Cuba denounces the presence of U.S. Navy in Southern Caribbean

Under the pretext of combating drug trafficking, the U.S. has deployed more than 4,500 military personnel in waters near Latin America and the Caribbean, even though 90 percent of the drugs that leave South America for the U.S. travel via the Pacific Ocean.

Cuba raised its voice in protest against the significant presence of U.S. naval and air forces in the southern Caribbean, describing these activities as a deployment under false pretexts and from and from the corrupt agenda of U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla reiterated on social media that Latin America and the Caribbean must be respected as a Zone of Peace and rejected any action that compromises the sovereignty of the countries in the region.

Cuban diplomacy stressed that this military presence represents a threat to the security and peace of Latin America and the Caribbean, a denunciation that adds to a previous Cuban criticism, issued on March 19, 2025, against the deployment of the destroyer USS Gravelly in the Gulf of Mexico, also under the alleged pretext of combating illegal drug trafficking.

On that occasion, Foreign Minister Rodríguez Parrilla warned that this military presence endangered the stability of the subcontinent.

According to reports from the U.S. Navy, the U.S. deployment includes more than 4,000 additional Marines and sailors in the waters surrounding Latin America and the Caribbean, supposed-



U.S. deployment includes 4,000 additional Marines and sailors in waters surrounding Latin America and the Caribbean. Photo: USN

ly to combat drug cartels, although it is known that 90 percent of drugs leave for the U.S. via the Pacific Ocean.

Part of this operation is the deployment of the Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) Iwo Jima and the 22nd marine infantry. In addition, a nuclear-powered attack submarine, P8 Poseidon reconnaissance aircraft, several destroyers, and a guided-missile cruiser have been assigned to the mission.

Since Donald Trump's administration, there has been a tendency to intensify militarization in the region rather than address the causes of growing drug consumption within the U.S., the world's largest market.

However, the justification for the fight against drug trafficking is "part of a broader political agenda that undermines peace and sovereignty in the region," as the Cuban foreign minister pointed out.

Source: *Cuba en Resumen / Resumen Latinoamericano – English*

to snuff," and that they will be fired if Trump, not Taiwan, gives the order.

It should be noted that Taiwan's government is using bribery of the populace to go along with this arms buildup. The news outlet Taiwan Plus reported on August 2:

"Taiwan's government is set to make cash payments of over US\$300 per person by the end of October, after President Lai Ching-te enacted an economic relief bill passed by the legislature in July."

Of course, the 800,000 heavily exploited migrant workers in Taiwan from Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines won't see a penny of that money.

Source: *Fighting Words*

Mariela Castro on Cuba's path to LGBTQI+ rights

By Mariela Castro Espín

Following is a talk by Mariela Castro Espín on July 29 at the ICAP (Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos / Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples) House of Friendship, in Havana, Cuba, with the participation of the Venceremos Brigade and LGBTQI+ activists from the United States, along with members of the community networks linked to Cenesex (Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual / National Center for Sex Education), among other invited individuals.

This event was the Cuban launch of the book published in the U.S. by Struggle-La Lucha, "Love is the law: Cuba's queer rights revolution." Castro Espín contributed to the book. She is director of Cenesex, which has led the way in for LGBTQI+ rights.

Transcribed and translated by Gregory E. Williams

United by all struggles against injustice

Good afternoon, thank you for organizing this meeting. Thank you very much for coming and for your solidarity with Cuba and the rest of the peoples. Well, I really enjoyed the book presentation, everything you said.

So, I'm going to speak as an activist. Here, we are integral activists; women fight for men, men for women, LGBT people for straight people. We are inter-activists. We are comprehensive activists. We also share solidarity with each other. We are united by all struggles against injustice.

So, we've been working on this within Cuban society for many years. This was achieved after many years of work, many dialogues, many opportunities to raise awareness.

We also had to study a lot. What did the different sciences have to say about this? What did the different social groups have to say about this?

We watched the struggle for civil rights in the United States with great respect. But we haven't experienced what you experienced in your political struggles in your country. There were situations of injustice with which we disagreed, and which are inconsistent with our revolutionary ideals.

And we said we have a very complex dialogue to undertake, and we have to convince a lot of people. And those are the arguments we used to convince our colleagues in Cuban society.

If we're fighting for a socialist revolution – that socialist revolution for human rights and equality for all people – it has to address all issues. And we took it upon ourselves to demonstrate that there were problems that we had to resolve.

And that has been above all our work, our activism: educate, educate, educate.

We had to expose those inconsistencies with words that would convince people what we had to do. And then, after many years, we saw results.

And we were inspired by the activism of the Federation of Cuban Women. And by the activism that public health institutions had developed to confront the HIV epidemic. And little by little, we made progress, advancing in dialogue, in the design of policies and laws.

And since we started organizing the Cuban Days Against Homophobia and Transphobia, we tried to empower the Cuban population to talk about these issues. These were taboo topics.

[SLL note: The "Jornadas" or Days Against Homophobia and Transphobia, the Days for Children's Rights, etc., are national mobilizations that occur annually.]

Prejudice a colonial legacy

And we found that many used derogatory terms to refer to LGBT people. Even when we began developing a film-discussion space called Cine Club Diferente. In that debate, the LGBT population participating reproduced the same prejudices they internalized against themselves. They thought they were sick people. They apologized. They said, "I'm sorry I'm like this. Why am I like this?"

And precisely what we tell them in these debates is that the disease isn't in you, it's in society. It's a colonial and neocolonial legacy that we haven't transformed. There was no awareness that it needed to be transformed. Nor did anyone know how to do it. Nor did we know. That's why this collective space for dialogue allowed us to learn about them collectively.

Struggle cannot be compartmentalized

And then we started developing LGBTI rights activists, also encouraging

non-LGBTI people to get involved. Because sexual rights don't just focus on LGBTI issues, it's much broader.

And we didn't want to compartmentalize the problem with respect to Cuban society. Also, taking into account the experiences other countries have had – seeing or taking into account LGBTI activism in other countries – we learned from that and included it in our work.

And we were able to see how, through funding from certain international organizations, they tried to co-opt, blackmail, direct, and fragment these LGBT struggles, apart from other popular struggles. And when I was in San Francisco, on Castro Street, I went to a small LGBT museum, and I talked to many people, even on the street. It was very interesting because they recounted those experiences.

They questioned the New York-centric nature of LGBT struggles. And they said, a lot of blood was shed here in San Francisco before it was in New York. And in the same museum, you could see how the grassroots struggles were all connected, all integrated. And they were anti-system struggles. They were deep struggles. And they divided the groups, they divided them.

And so they have tried to prevent these divided popular struggles from uniting to change the capitalist system. And neoliberalism, above all, worked to divide the struggles of the proletariat, using, above all, diversity as a trap.

But you were all very clear in your speeches at today's event: Our struggles are inseparable. And I believe this perspective unites us. And I believe we must continue uniting, strengthening ties, to strengthen these struggles. To strengthen solidarity.

Anti-imperialism key for LGBTQI+ liberation

I see how the government is brutalizing people in the United States, in your protests. In your demonstrations against racism. In the struggles of immigrants. Against anti-immigrant policies. Against the genocide of the Palestinian people, Libya, Syria, Lebanon. In other words, they're repressing solidarity with all countries with anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist stances.

You've seen that the official space of politics in the United States is completely

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Mariela Castro

Mariela Castro describe el camino de Cuba hacia los derechos LGBTQI+

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sabíamos. Por eso ese espacio colectivo de diálogo nos permitió saber sobre ellos colectivamente.

La lucha no se puede compartimentar

Y luego empezamos a formar activistas por los derechos de las personas LGBTQI en los que otras personas que

no eran LGBTQI se involucraron. Porque los derechos sexuales no sólo se centran en las problemáticas LGBTQI. Es mucho más amplio.

Y no queríamos segmentar el problema con respecto a la sociedad cubana. También tomando en cuenta las experiencias que otros países han tenido, viendo o tomando en cuenta el activismo LGBTQI en otros países, aprendimos de eso para incluirlo en nuestro trabajo.

Y pudimos ver cómo, a través del financiamiento de ciertas organizaciones internacionales, se trataba de cooptar, de chantajear, de dirigir, de segmentar estas luchas LGBT, aparte de otras luchas populares. Y cuando estuve en San Francisco, en la Calle Castro, que fui a ese pequeño museo LGBT, y conversé con mucha gente, incluso en la calle, fue muy interesante porque contaban esas experiencias.

Cuestionaban el Nueva York-centrismo en las luchas LGBT. Y decían, aquí en San Francisco corría mucha sangre antes que en Nueva York. Y en el mismo museo se veía cómo las luchas populares estaban todas relacionadas, estaban todas integradas. Y eran luchas antisistemas.

Eran luchas profundas. Y los dividieron a los grupos, los dividieron.

Y así han tratado de que esas luchas populares divididas, no se unan para cambiar el sistema capitalista. Y el neoliberalismo, sobre todo, trabajó por dividir las luchas del proletariado. Utilizando, sobre todo, la diversidad como una trampa.

Pero todos ustedes en este evento de hoy fueron muy claros en sus discursos: Nuestras luchas son inseparables. Y creo que esta perspectiva nos une. Y yo creo que tenemos que seguir uniéndonos, estrechando vínculos, para fortalecer estas luchas. Para fortalecer la solidaridad.

El antiimperialismo es clave para la liberación LGBTQI+

Veo cómo el gobierno está brutalizando a la gente en los Estados Unidos, en sus manifestaciones. En sus manifestaciones en contra del racismo. En las luchas de los inmigrantes. En contra de las políticas anti-inmigrantes. En contra del genocidio del pueblo palestino, Libia, Siria, Líbano. Es decir, todos los países con postura anti-imperialista y anti-sionista son masacrados.

Has visto que el espacio político oficial en Estados Unidos es completamente

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Zionist. Both the Republican and Democratic parties are Zionist. Both are imperialist.

Two years ago, when we began our Days Against Homophobia, Cuban LGBTQI activists dedicated the day to the Palestinian struggle. And this year, we dedicated ourselves to the anti-imperialist, anti-colonial, and anti-fascist struggle. We cannot allow them to trivialize the struggles of LGBT people. We cannot allow them to obscure the classist nature of discrimination.

We're going to join forces to organize different spaces to fight for LGBT rights as part of everyone's struggle. We have to join forces.

Liberation isn't a spectator sport

But during these campaigns, when we ask people to sign declarations for LGBTQI rights, there are people who don't sign! It's like solidarity is up in the sky somewhere. They're like spectators. They don't participate. They don't take part in these struggles for solidarity. But everything is connected. When you fight for the rights of LGBTQI people, you're also fighting for all people and against the blockade of Cuba.

And to discredit what we were doing, there were foreign journalists who said, "Well, since you're defending Palestine, you're homophobic. Muslims are homophobic." Huh? What did you say? Why are we defending Palestine if Muslims are homophobic?

And we responded, there's homophobia in every society. There's homophobia in every religion. In the United States, there's a homophobic policy. And all the governments that support U.S. foreign policy are homophobic, including the countries of the European Union.

Because sometimes they support LGBTQI communities, sometimes they don't — it's just politics. There's no conviction behind their actions.

Consciousness transformed through struggle

Well, then, I'm very pleased to meet people like you. It's truly fascinating to meet people who share our ideological stance. Sometimes, we don't find them here in Cuba. So it's a constant ideological struggle in the country.

Most of the 33% who voted against the Families Code did so only because it guarantees the right to equal marriage. Were they all religious? No, they weren't. Some were also Communist Party activists!

But that's part of the process of revolutionary transformation. We must continue the fight, the dialogue, and the educational campaigns.

The most important thing is that the political will of the Cuban Communist Party, the state, and the government has been clearly expressed in policies and laws. The Constitution of the Republic has protected the rights of LGBT people as constitutional rights.

Almost no country has that in its constitution. There are only 10. And the Constitution was approved by a constitutional referendum as an exercise of democracy.

People agreed. And that demonstrates the process of cultural transformation in socialism. In the 1970s, people didn't think that way. Now they do. But there has been intentional education. As Paulo Freire said, "educate for freedom." The meaning of education is freedom. That's our job. That's what Cenesex's mission is all about: educating for emancipation, educating for freedom.

I always say, jokingly, that the sex education that Cenesex proposes isn't about teaching the positions of the Kama Sutra! That's not what we're interested in. It's true. That doesn't matter to us.

Our goal is to eliminate violence. What's important to us is to educate to overcome prejudice, to educate for freedom.#



Defying Trump's cuts: L.A. LGBT shares resistance strategy in

The following talk was presented on July 29 at the ICAP (Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos / Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples) House and LGBTIQ+ activists from the United States, along with members of the community networks linked to Cenexex (Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual / National Center for Sex Education), among other invited individuals.

This event was the Cuban launch of the book published in the U.S. by Struggle-La Lucha, "Love is the law: Cuba's queer rights revolution," which is about the revolutionary Families Code that has expanded the legal rights of women, children, seniors, LGBTIQ+ people, and more. Onyinye Alheri is a social worker in Los Angeles and an activist with the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice and the L.A. LGBT Center. She went to Cuba with the book delegation.

I'm going to try my Spanish here because we're in Cuba and it's important to talk the language of the people that we're visiting, but I will also speak some moments in English. Thank you.

Entonces, yo soy Onyinye. Yo soy una trabajadora social en Los Angeles, California.

So I'm Onyinye. I'm a social worker in Los Angeles, California. Like Gregory mentioned, we at the L.A. LGBT Center have been fighting all year, especially in support of trans people and gender non-conforming people.

Entonces, como Greg nos dijo, yo estoy trabajando para el centro LGBT y hemos estado luchando en defensa de las personas trans durante todo el año.

And it's been a huge struggle, but the L.A. LGBT Center is fortunate to be well-funded.

Ha sido una lucha difícil, pero por suerte el centro LGBT está bien financiado.

But at the same time, due to the attacks by Donald Trump's administration, we have lost millions of dollars in the last seven months alone.

Aún así, debido a los ataques de la administración Trump, el centro ha perdido bastantes millones de dólares para su financiación.

But to Gregory's point [asking how the struggle in L.A. is going], I wanted to just highlight some of the wins that we have made. Because, initially, I was going to present on all the laws that are in place to attack trans people and queer people in the U.S.

Aún así, me interesa mucho presentar las victorias que hemos tenido. Hay muchos ataques hacia la comunidad,

pero es importante destacar lo que hemos ganado.

So recently, we, the L.A. LGBT Center, sued the Trump administration along with six other organizations around the United States. And we won.

Recientemente nuestra organización junto a otras seis organizaciones en Estados Unidos demandó a la administración de Donald Trump. Y ganamos.

I don't know how widely this was publicized. Definitely not by the liberal media for obvious reasons. But it's important to say that we did this after having lost \$21 million, after being attacked, after having MAGA supporters come to our homeless shelters and threaten our young trans and queer people.

No sé cómo habrá sido publicitado esto por los medios liberales, pero bueno, vencimos después de haber perdido \$21 millones, después de haber sido atacados por miembros de MAGA, personas que estaban a favor de la administración de Trump, después de una larga lucha contra grupos de este tipo.

And the way that we did this is what feels most important to highlight because it's very similar to how the Families Code was passed here in Cuba. And that was through grassroots outreach, including knocking on neigh-

Mariela Castro describe el camino de Cuba hacia

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sionista. Tanto el Partido Republicano como el Demócrata son sionistas. Ambos son imperialistas.

Por eso, hace dos años, cuando empezamos en nuestra Jornada Contra la Homofobia, los activistas LGTBI cubanas nos dedicaron la Jornada a la lucha palestina. Y este año, nos dedicamos a la lucha contra la imperialista, anticolonial y antifascista. No podemos dejar que ellos vanalicen las luchas de las personas LGBT. No podemos dejar que eliminen el sentido clasista de la discriminación.

Vamos a unir fuerzas para organizar diferentes espacios para luchar por los derechos LGBT como parte de la lucha

de todas las personas. Tenemos que unir fuerzas.

La liberación no es un deporte para espectadores

Pero, durante estas campañas, cuando pedimos a la gente que firme declaraciones por los derechos LGBTIQ, ¡hay gente que no firma! Es como la solidaridad está arriba en el cielo. Son como espectadores. No participan. No participan de estas luchas por la solidaridad. Pero todo está conectado. Cuando se lucha por los derechos de las personas LGBTIQ, también se está luchando por todas las personas y en contra del bloqueo a Cuba.

Y para descalificar lo que hacíamos había periodistas extranjeros que decían

bueno pero como ustedes están defendiendo a Palestina si son homofóbicos, los musulmanes son homofóbicos. ¿Eh? ¿Qué dijiste? ¿Qué nos dijeron? ¿Por qué definden a Palestina si los musulmanes son homofóbicos?

Y nosotros respondemos, en todas las sociedades hay homofobia. En todas las religiones hay homofobia. En los Estados Unidos hay una política homofóbica. Y todos los gobiernos que apoyan la política exterior de Estados Unidos son homofóbicos, incluyendo los países de la Unión Europea.

Porque a veces apoyan a las comunidades LGBTI, a veces no, es solo política. No hay convicciones detrás de sus acciones.

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Center activist Havana

By Onyinye Alheri

bors' doors, flyering at different events, raising money from non-federal sources.

And that's something that felt important for me to highlight because what stood out in this book was how democracy was truly implemented in the passing of this law. Unlike in the United States, where even on the first day of Trump's presidency, we saw executive orders made without any input or approval from the people.

Esto es muy diferente a lo que sucede en los Estados Unidos donde la administración de Trump enseguida, en su primer día, empezó a llevar a cabo leyes ejecutivas o órdenes ejecutivas que es totalmente contrario a lo que muchas veces es lo que quiere el pueblo.

I want to close out our talk with some inspiration and just say that despite all of the federal attacks and all of the state-sanctioned violence against us, we can fight back and we can win!

Quiero cerrar nuestra charla con algo de inspiración y simplemente decir que, a pesar de todos los ataques federales y toda la violencia sancionada por el estado contra nosotros, podemos contraatacar y podemos ganar! #

From left to right: Onyinye Alheri (Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice and Los Angeles LGBT Center); Verde Gil Jiménez (Grupo Trans Masculinos de Cuba); Gregory Williams ('Love is the law' editor).



los derechos LGBTQI+

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Conciencia transformada a través de la lucha

Entonces, bueno, me da mucho gusto encontrarme con gente como ustedes. Es, sinceramente, fascinante cuando se encuentran personas que tienen nuestra misma postura ideológica. A veces, aquí en Cuba no los encontramos. Así que es una lucha ideológica permanente en el país.

El 33% de las personas que votaron contra el Código de las Familias votó en contra solo por el derecho al matrimonio igualitario. ¿Eran todos religiosos? No, no lo eran. ¿También había militantes en el Partido Comunista! Pero es parte del pro-

ceso de transformación revolucionaria.

Tenemos que seguir en la pelea, en el diálogo, en las campañas educativas.

Lo más importante es que la voluntad política del Partido Comunista de Cuba, del estado y del gobierno, han sido expresadas claramente en las políticas y en las leyes. La Constitución de la República blindó los derechos de las personas LGBT como derechos constitucionales.

Casi ningún país tiene eso en su constitución. Solo hay 10. Y que la Constitución fue aprobada por un referéndum constitucional como ejercicio de la democracia.

La gente estuvo de acuerdo. Y eso demuestra el proceso de transformación cultural del socialismo. En los años 70

no se pensaba así. Ahora sí. Pero ha habido una intencionalidad educativa. Como decía Paulo Freire, "educar para la libertad." El sentido de la educación es la libertad.

Ese es nuestro trabajo. El sentido de trabajo del Cenesex es eso. Educar para la emancipación, educar para la libertad.

Yo siempre digo que jugando, en la educación sexual que el Cenesex propone, ¡no es para enseñar las posiciones del Kama Sutra! Eso no nos interesa. Es verdad. Eso no nos importa.

Nuestro objetivo es que no haya violencia. Lo importante para nosotros es educar para superar los prejuicios, educar para la libertad. #

Mariela Castro describe el camino de Cuba hacia los derechos LGBTQI+

La siguiente charla de Mariela Castro Espín se presentó el 29 de julio, en la Casa de la Amistad del ICAP (Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos), en La Habana, Cuba, con la participación de la Brigada Venceremos y activistas LGBTQI+ de Estados Unidos, junto a miembros de las redes comunitarias vinculadas al Cenesex (Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual), entre otros invitados.

Este evento marcó el lanzamiento en Cuba del libro publicado en Estados Unidos por Struggle-La Lucha, "El amor es la ley: la revolución de los derechos queer en Cuba." Castro Espín colaboró en la elaboración del libro. Es directora del Cenesex, que ha liderado el avance de los derechos LGBTQI+.

Transcrito por Gregory E. Williams

Unidos por todas las luchas contra la injusticia

Buenas tardes, gracias por organizar este encuentro. Muchas gracias por venir. Muchas gracias por la solidaridad con Cuba y con los otros pueblos. Bueno, pues, me ha gustado mucho la presentación del libro, todo lo que han dicho.

Entonces, voy a hablar como activista. Aquí los activistas somos integrales, somos activistas, las mujeres de los hombres, los hombres de las mujeres, las personas LGBT de la gente heterosexuales. Somos interactivistas. Somos activistas comprensivos. También tenemos solidaridad entre todos. Todas las luchas contra las injusticias nos unen.

Así que bueno, nosotros teníamos esta tarea dentro de la sociedad cubana desde hace muchos años. Esto se logró después de muchos años de trabajo. Muchos diálogos, muchos espacios para generar conciencia.

También tuvimos que estudiar mucho. ¿Qué tenían que decir las diferentes ciencias sobre esto? ¿Qué tenían que decir los diferentes grupos sociales sobre esto?

Miramos con gran respeto la lucha por los derechos civiles en los Estados Unidos. Pero no vivimos lo que ustedes viven en sus luchas políticas en sus país. Había situaciones de injusticia con las que no estábamos de acuerdo, y que no son coherentes con nuestros ideales revolucionarios.

Y dijimos que tenemos un diálogo muy complejo y tenemos que convencer a mucha gente. Y esos son los argumentos que utilizamos para convencer a nuestras y a nuestros colegas en la sociedad cubana.



Foto por SLL: Gregory E. Williams.

La Habana, 29 de julio – La directora del Cenesex, Mariela Castro, habla en la presentación del libro 'El amor es la ley.'

Si estamos luchando por una revolución socialista – esa revolución socialista que es por los derechos humanos y la igualdad de todas las personas – tiene que tocar todos los temas. Y nos dimos a la tarea de evidenciarlo, de que ocurrían problemas que teníamos que resolver.

Y ese ha sido sobre todo nuestro trabajo, nuestro activismo: educar, educar, educar.

Tenemos que evidenciar esas incoherencias. Ponerle las palabras que permitieran a las personas convencerse de qué teníamos que hacer. Y luego, después de muchos años, tuvimos resultados.

Y nos inspiramos en el activismo de la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas. Y en el activismo que habían desarrollado las instituciones de salud pública para enfrentar la epidemia del VIH. Y fuimos poquito a poco avanzando, avanzando en los diálogos, en el diseño de las políticas y de las leyes.

Y a partir de que empezamos a organizar las jornadas cubanas contra la homofobia y la transfobia, y luego tratamos de encargar a la población cubana de hablar sobre esos temas. Estos eran temas tabúes.

[Nota de SLL: Las Jornadas Contra la Homofobia y la Transfobia, las jornadas por los

derechos de la infancia, etc., son movilizaciones nacionales que ocurren anualmente. También, el primero forma parte del Día Internacional contra la Homofobia, la Bifobia y la Transfobia.]

El prejuicio, un legado colonial

Y tenían, además, palabras peyorativas para referirse a las personas LGBT. Incluso cuando empezamos a desarrollar un espacio de cine-debate que se le llamó Cine Club Diferente. En ese debate, la misma población LGBT que participaba reproducía los mismos prejuicios que se internalizan contra ellos mismos. Pensaban que eran personas enfermas. Pedían disculpas. Lo siento que soy así. ¿Por qué soy así?

Y justamente lo que les devolvemos en esos debates es que la enfermedad no está en ustedes, está en la sociedad. Es una herencia colonial y neocolonial que no hemos transformado. No tenía conciencia de que había que transformarlo. Tampoco se sabía cómo hacerlo. Nosotros tampoco lo

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